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LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement concerning ongoing events in the Gulf region, as issued on 17 January 1991 by the official Jordanian spokesman.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdullah SALAH
Permanent Representative

Annex

Text of a statement issued on 17 January 1991 by the official Jordanian spokesman

Since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, Jordan has been doing its utmost to address its causes and its consequences within an Arab framework. In the first days of the crisis, its leadership was able to obtain an Iraqi commitment to withdraw from Kuwait, and a time was established for that withdrawal to begin. Jordan also obtained Iraq's agreement that it would attend a scaled-down summit meeting at Jeddah in order to address the underlying causes that had led to the eruption of the crisis. However, the insistance on the adoption of a resolution by the League of Arab States, as embodied in the Arab ministers for foreign affairs, as well as the emergence of extreme and inflexible positions among certain Arab parties, both facilitated the adoption by the Security Council of successive resolutions on the crisis.

There then ensued the arrival of foreign forces in the region, which made the withdrawal from Kuwait inoperative at its very outset and aborted the scaled-down summit meeting at Jeddah for which there had been hope.

Jordan continued to strive for peaceful action, but its repeated attempts encountered obstacles erected by a number of parties which were clearly resolved to choose war and playing for time in which to complete the mobilization of their forces and prepare for aggression against Iraq under the guise of implementing United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Jordan, which has always respected the resolutions of the Security Council and is constant in its commitment to their implementation, is grieved that an analogous crisis in the region was not met with speedy resolutions, economic boycott and the threat of hostile action despite its longstanding character and despite the fact that it gives rise to occupation and the expulsion of an Arab people from its land and the soil of its homeland.

The leadership, Government and people of Jordan condemn the brutal assault in the early hours of today on a peaceable Arab country and people - one that has always hastened to the assistance of its brother Arabs and unhesitatingly paid its due in terms of blood and sacrifice in all of the battles that have been imposed on the Arab nation - by an attack on its capital city in such great force and with the possibility of continued strikes against it. All of those who took part will bear responsibility for it, to God, to man and to history, for having set out to destroy an Arab military, intellectual and human power and a peaceable, proud and fraternal Arab people which is of and for the essence of this nation. God will watch over and safeguard our nation, and He will enable us to protect the integrity of its generations to come after us. It is from God that succour comes.